

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01445 01 OF 02 210611Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
SNM-02 COME-00 AGRE-00 OES-07 HEW-04 /093 W  
-----210614Z 119967 /13/46

R 201004Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3524  
INFO CINCPAC  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
DEA BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMCONSUL MANDALAY  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1445

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ETRD, EAGR, BM, IS, KN  
SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #19, MAY 14-20

### CONTENTS

1. AFTERMATH OF NE WIN'S PRC TRIP (CONF)
2. THREE COLONELS PROMOTED (CO QF)
3. U.S. GRANTEES DESIGNATED FOR TOP EDUCATION POSTS (UNCL)
4. CULTIVATION LOANS (UNCL)

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 01445 01 OF 02 210611Z

5. ANOTHER TRADE DEFICIT (UNCL)
  6. DPRK TECHNICAL MISSION IN BURMA (UNCL)
  7. ISRAELI DEVELOPMENT OFFICIAL VISITS BURMA (UNCL)
  8. HEALTH PROBLEMS ACKNOWLEDGED (LOU)
- END CONTENTS

1. AFTERMATH OF NE WIN'S PRC TRIP (CONF)

IN THE WEEK SINCE NE WIN'S RETURN FROM HIS LONG VISIT TO THE PRC, COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY, AND INDIRECNHY FROM THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF, STRONGLY INDICATE THAT THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS. LAVISH HOSPITALITY WAS APPARENTLY SUBSTITUTED FOR PROGRESS IN THE AREAS OF CONTINUING CONCERN TO THE GUB, I.E., PRC SUPPORT FOR THE BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP) INSURGENCY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

COMMENT: NE WIN DOUBTLESS HAD HOPED THAT HIS PERSONAL DIPLOMACY WOULD ACHIEVE SOME SUCCESS IN FURTHER LIMITING PRC SUPPORT TO THE BCP AS WELL AS WINNING ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC AID. SUCH HOPES WERE, INDEED, REFLECTED IN THE CALL OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED THIRD CONGRESS OF BURMA'S REULING PARTY FOR A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION OF THE BCP PROBLEM. WHILE THE FAILURE OF "MODERATE" TENG HSIAO-PING TO MAKE HIS ANTICIPATED COMEBACK AS PRC PREMIER BEFORE NE WIN'S VISIT HAD ALREADY SOMEWHAT DAMPENED BURMESE OPTIMISM, THE LFLCK OF PROGRESS MUST NEVERTHELESS BE A SHARP DISAPPOINTMENT.

2. THREE COLONELS PROMOTED (CONF)

THE GUB'S DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE (DDSI) RECENTLY INFORMED TH ATTACHE CORPS OF THE PROMOTION OF THREE COLONELS TO THE RANK OF BRIGADIER GENERAL. THEY ARE: COLONEL TUN TIN, ADJUTANT GENERAL, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; COLONEL TUN YI, COMMANDER, EASTERN COMMAND; AND COLONEL HLA TUN, COMMANDER, NORTHWEST COMMAND.

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PAGE 03 RANGOO 01445 01 OF 02 210611Z

COMMENT: COLONEL TUN TIN WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK SUITABLE FOR HIS JOB; THE ADJUTANT GENERAL IS CUSTOMARILY A BRIGADIER. THE OTHER TWO PROMOTIONS ARE MORE INTERESTING BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH THE NINE AREA COMMANDER SLOTS ARE RATED BRIGADIER GENERAL, THEY HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN FILLED BY

COLONELS. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE COLONEL COMMANDING THE RANGOON COMMAND, HITHERTO THE PREEMINENT COMMAND, IS NOW OUTRANKED BY TWO OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

3. U.S. GRANTEES DESIGNATED FOR TOP EDUCATION POSTS (UNCL)

EVIDENCE THAT THE U.S IS GETTING TOP MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES FOR ITS EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL EGTIONS:

U CDEO OO, PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN, EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH BUREAU AND RECENT EAST-WEST CENTER GRANTEE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL, BASIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. U KHIN AUNG KYI, FORMER HEAD OF RANGOON INSTITUTE OF

TECHNOLOGY'S (RIT) CHEMICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND RECENT EAST-WEST CENTER GRANTEE, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED ACTING RECTOR AND SUBSEQUENTLY WILL BE NAMED RIT RECTOR. DR. MAUNG DI, PRINCIPAL, MOULMEIN COLLEGE AND FY '76 IV GRANTEE IS SLATED TO BECOME RECTOR OF RANGOON UNIVERSITY.

4. CULTIVATION LOANS (UNCL)

THE GUB HAS AUTHORIZED K50 (\$8) MILLION FOR CULTIVATION LOANS THIS CROP YEAR. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF K20 (\$2.7) MILLION OVER THE 1976/77 PERIOD. THESE LOANS ARE TO BE DISBURSED THROUGH THE MYANMA AGRICULTURAL BANK. DESPITE THE MODEST INCREASE, FARM CREDIT IN BURMA REMAINS FAR BELOW RURAL REQUIREMENTS, AND MOST FARMERS ARE FORCED TO TURN TO ILLICIT MONEY LENDERS FOR CREDIT.

5. ANOTHER TRADE DEFICIT (UMCL)

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PAGE 04 RANGOO 01445 01 OF 02 210611Z

ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY DATA, BURMA RECORDED ANOTHER LARGE TRADE DEFICIT IN THE 1976/77 FISCAL YEAR WHICH ENDED MARCH 31. THE VALUE OF BURMA'S EXPORTS ROSE FROM (1,295 (\$193.3) MILLION IN 1975/76 TO K1,656 (\$247) MILLION IN 1976/77, BUT IMPORT VALUES INCREASED FROM K1,620 (\$241.8) MILLION TO K2,100 (\$313) MILLION IN THE SAME PERIOD. BURMA'S TRADE GAP HAS WIDENED FROM K103 (\$15) MILLION IN 1974/75 TO K325 (\$48) MILLION IN 1975/76 TO K444 (\$66) MILLION IN THE PAST FISCAL YEAR.

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01445 02 OF 02 201134Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-04 AID-05 SNM-02

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-----201238Z 100731 /46

R 201004Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3525

INFO CINCPAC  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
DEA BANGKOK  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1445

6. DPRK TECHNICAL MISSION IN BURMA (UNCL)  
A FIVE-MEMBER DPRK TECHNICAL MISSION LED BY MR. KIM  
U1 GYU ARRIVED IN RANGOON ON MAY 14. THE MISSION WILL  
REMAIN IN BURMA FOR UP TO FOUR MONTHS TO CARRY OUT STUDIES  
CONNECTED WITH PRODUCING RAYON FROM REEDS AND BAMBOO.

7. ISRAELI DEVELOPMENT OFFICIAL VISITS BURMA (UNCL)  
DR. AKIVA EGER, DIRECTOR OF ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTE  
FOR DEVELOPMENT, COOPERATION AND LABOR STUDIES  
WAS IN RANGOON DURING THE PAST WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH  
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 01445 02 OF 02 201134Z

TOP-LEVEL GUB OFFICIALS. DURING HIS STAY DR. EGER MET  
WITH LABOR MINISTER U KYAW ZAW AND COOPERATIVES MINISTER  
U TUN TIN AS WELL AS OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THESE MINISTRIES.

8. HEALTH PROBLEMS ACKNOWLEDGED UNCL  
OUTBREAKS OF HOOF-AND-MOUTH DISEASE, RABIES, AND

CHOLERA IN CENTRAL BURMA HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REPORTED IN  
RANGOON'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS. OTHER ARTICLES

ACKNOWLEDGED THAT  
MALNUTRITION AND HEPATITIS ARE SERIOUS  
PROBLEMS IN BURMA.

COMMENT: THIS SUDDEN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF WELL-KNOWN  
SITUATIONS PROBABLY DOES NOT MEAN A CHANGE IN GUB PULIC  
HEALTH POLICY. IT MORE LIKELY REFLECTS THE RECENT ASSIGN-  
MENT OF THE INFORMATION MINISTRY PORTFOLIO TO HEALTH  
MINISTER U KYI MAUNG.  
OSBORN

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009